



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
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Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Board members not in attendance: Mark Siderius, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Don Garner; Bob Storer, Flathead River Commission; Dale Hardy; Megan Stockfisch, Big Sky Watershed Corps; Angel Rosario, NRCS.

MINUTES: Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2015, 310-meeting as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Fall issue of McCone CD “Conservation News”
2. Summer issue of Montana Statefund (Work Comp) “Perspectives”
3. DNRC notice: Applications for Reclamation & Development grants (RDG) are due September 25.
4. August 20, 2015 Whitefish Planning Board agenda
5. “From the Ground Up, Montana Women & Agriculture” Oral History Seminar, August 26, Yogo Inn, Lewistown. Contact Linda Brander LLbrander@mt.gov, 406-444-0520
6. DEQ fall training classes – BMP 101: Storm Water Management during construction. To register go online to MT DEQ Compliance & Technical Support section
7. Broadwater CD and Lewis & Clark CD will host a Soil Health Day, September 17, Winston, MT. Contact 406-449-5000 Ext 112
8. August 19, 2015 issue of “The Montana Conservationist”
9. Petroleum CD is sponsoring the Winnett Field Day on August 24. Contact 406-600-5205.

FINANCIAL: The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$249.76
2. J&D Embroidery \$360.00
3. VISA \$149.01
4. Deer Park School Dist. #2 \$937.70

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

310's

CRAIG, FL2015039, Tamarack Creek, culvert: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion "to approve the application with modifications per Ronald Buentemeier's and Kenny Breidinger's team member reports, and waive the 15-day waiting period." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WINDNAGLE/HARVEY, FL2015045, Flathead River, bk stabil/dock: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve the application with modifications per Dean Sirucek's and Kenny Breidinger's team member reports, and waive the 15-day waiting period." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CORPS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY - Floodplain Inundation Mapping (FIN) Library Bob Storer requested that FCD sponsor a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood inundation mapping on the lower 22 miles of the Flathead River. The map would help communicate where flooding may occur over a range of river levels, and it would help in community preparedness, response, recovery, and planning.

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to serve as the local cooperating state agency to sponsor the Flathead River flood modeling project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Flathead River Commission. Minimal staff time would be allowed to coordinate the accomplishment of the project." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

KRAUSE CREEK GRANT SPONSORSHIP REQUEST: Don Garner presented a request for FCD to sponsor a planning grant through the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program. Krause Creek, which runs through the Garner property, has experienced high levels of down cutting and associated erosion in recent years, and the Garners hope to begin identifying possible solutions for it with a watershed planning grant.

Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to have staff contact DNRC and find out the grant limitations with respect to public lands." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 ADMINISTRATIVE GR CDA-16-1752: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to approve and submit 310 Administrative grant CDA-16-1752 to DNRC." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RIVER STEWARD GR #RCG-15-0019: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to approve Flathead Lakers invoice for \$300.00 and submit to DNRC for payment." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL REQUEST: Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion "to approve the equipment disposal request as submitted." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) - FLATHEAD CO. WEED DEPT.: Valerie Kurth presented the new MOA with the Flathead County Weed Department. Discussion held.

John Ellis made a motion “to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between FCD and Flathead County Weed Department.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET (July): The July 2015 End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the July End of Month report as presented.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT: Valerie Kurth presented a request to purchase a new monitor and computer. Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion “to approve the office equipment request for approximately \$1200.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion failed.

John Ellis made a motion “to approve the purchase of a new monitor for approximately \$150.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS (BSWC) MEMBER: Valerie Kurth and Dean Sirucek presented the BSWC hosting opportunity for 2016. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to support the District getting a BSWC member for 2016.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MT WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (MWRA) CONFERENCE: Valerie Kurth made a request to board to attend the MWRA conference. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to approve Valerie Kurth attending the 2015 MT AWRA conference in Missoula at a cost of \$450.” Dean Sirucek seconded.

Kari Musgrove asked the board if she could also attend. Discussion held. John Ellis amended the motion “to approve Valerie Kurth and Kari Musgrove to attend the 2015 MT AWRA conference in Missoula at a cost of \$900.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES DISCUSSION: Discussion held regarding whether or not to record the meetings. John Ellis made a motion “to no longer have a tape recorded record of any meetings of the Flathead Conservation District, as we take the minutes by having a staff member type them during the meeting.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY & HOLD HARMLESS AGREE: Board/Staff discussed having release, waiver of liability, and hold harmless agreements. John Ellis made a motion “to table the release, waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement until further review.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF EVALUATIONS: Staff evaluations are due for Valerie Kurth & Ginger Kauffman. Pete Woll requested evaluation comments by August 28, 2015. He will take comments for Valerie Kurth’s evaluation, and Valerie will take comments for Ginger Kauffman’s evaluation.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported on the following”

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- 2015 contracts. (10 contracts - \$250,000 total)
- Follow up visits and certifications
- Root Reviews

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- One renewal and three new applications

WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement)

- Compatible Use Agreements

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)

- Field review of new seedling
- New Sign-up starts December 1st

CTA (Conservation Technical Assistance)

- Field Visits – Pasture Management

Other

- Research Station Field Tour
- Pasture and Garden Tour

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST (RC) REPORT: Valerie Kurth reported the following:

310s: I accompanied Mark Siderius and Kenny Breidinger on the Northern Ridgeback/Ureco (culvert) onsite visit on 8/18/15.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC)

1. HBWC met on 8/19/15.
2. I visited the Haskill Creek – Reimer Reach project area on 8/14/15 with Eric Trum (Montana Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ) and Jonathan Ferree (River Design Group). Eric was visiting the area from Helena and wanted to see the project.

Project planning/outreach

1. I participated in the DEQ 319 project pre-proposal conference call on 8/12/15 because I wanted to see the process and get an idea of other projects around the state.
2. Pete Woll and I conducted an onsite visit to the Garner property and Krause Creek on 8/13/15. I also assisted the landowner with logistics related to his meeting presentation.
3. I worked at the FCD fair station on 8/20 and 8/21/15.

Sourcebook Curriculum Project: The team from Montana State University has completed draft lessons for Sourcebook chapters 1-5 (~40 lessons so far), and they continue to be favorably reviewed by the Community of Resource Educators partners. I am coordinating the timely review of the drafts, as well as the preparation for the field testing of the

curriculum guide. In addition, Lori Curtis and I procured additional 319 mini-grant funds (\$2,000) from the Soil and Water Conservation District of Montana. This grant is essentially an extension of an earlier mini-grant awarded to the project. It will be administered through the Whitefish Lake Institute and applied to Phase IV of the project.

Trumbull Creek: Mark Siderius and I visited the Trumbull Creek project site on 8/18/15. We discussed ways to address some debris that has accumulated under bridges on the Sapa and the Feenan properties (and is probably associated with the work we did upstream). I contacted DNRC about working on this within the grant framework, and I will continue working with Mark, the contractor, the landowners, and the permitting agencies on this issue.

TMDL: I coordinated landowner permissions for the August sampling at Ashley Creek. I assisted Paul Kusnierz (DEQ) and Megan Stockfisch with the sampling and flow measurements for five sites on 8/17/15. Additional sampling will occur in September.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATIONIST (AC) REPORT: Kari Musgrove reported:

Education Grant Program: Approved applications are being processed and the program is being updated.

Embroidered hats: As requested by the board of supervisors, 30 embroidered hats were ordered.

Thank your letter, August 14: As requested by the board of supervisors, Kate Arpin was sent a thank-you letter for conducting our WordPress training and helping to organize the District's website.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): The August 17 meeting was cancelled. The FRC's display board and the three aerial photos were picked up from Kalispell Copy.

Northwest Montana Fair, Aug 19-23: The Flathead Conservation District shared the Search and Rescue building with Glacier National Park and the U.S. Forest Service. Both the Flathead County Weed Department and the Flathead River Commission helped staff our booth. Over 2,000 members of the public visited our booth where they learned about the Flathead Conservation District, the Flathead River Commission, soil health, pollinator awareness, and noxious weeds.

Project Learning Tree Workshop (PLT): Thirteen teachers are registered for the PLT workshop, September 26, 2015. We have twelve vacancies.

Sourcebook Review: Chapters four and five of the Sourcebook were reviewed.

Beacon Ads: The District's programs were advertised and we invited people to visit us at the Fair.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: No report. The next meeting is September 9.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: No report. The next meeting is September 9.

MACD REPORT: Pete Woll reported that there has not been activity within MACD.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported that the Whitefish City Planning Board tabled a request to re-zone a condominium project because it appeared that the smaller units were overnight rental units.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: No report.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Valerie Kurth reported that the HBWC discussed postponement of their presentation to the Whitefish City Council until 2016. They also discussed the ongoing work on the fuels reduction project in the Basin and the status of the Forest Plan Revision. Also, a report from a forest pathologist on the foliar damage to western red cedar that occurred last November was distributed. The next meeting is October 28.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: No report.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: No report.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- Trumbull Creek Complaint
- Natural Resource Camp
- Area V Meeting & MACD Convention
- Meeting agenda items

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2015, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 P.M.

Submitted By: Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

9/14/2015 Pete Woll Vice-Chairman
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)